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2015 May Newsletter

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May 2015



"Digging Out"

If You're Teachable, You're Fixable



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It's 2:30 AM and I am up and about. Do I want to be? No, not really. I would much rather be snuggled next to my Sweetheart and sound asleep, but this has been an unsettling night, for whatever reason. I guess as we progress in age, sometimes our sleep is not necessarily as we want it to be. Through the years I have discovered that sometimes when I have a night like this, there is some message that I am to receive from God, so tonight I look forward to whatever it is, and will share it with you.

The message has come indirectly from God's word, and believe it or not, from something on *Facebook*. War is all around us these days. Along with being in the hearts of men and women, it is also within many countries and cities. Repeated bombings and murderous rages trigger destruction of not only buildings, but entire towns.

A friend had put up on *Facebook* a video of eight or ten men digging with their hands in the rubble left from a bombing. They worked furiously as if looking for a buried treasure, and as the video continued, slowly one began to see a baby's head. That these men's hands were not raw and bleeding must have been a function of God's grace and mercy toward them as they dug with ungloved hands in a pile of cement and stone. Very carefully, painstakingly, they moved gravel and fragments of a fallen building to slowly extricate a beautiful child from the rubble. Once freed, what rejoicing among the men and the bystanders.

I watched the video to its end, all the while noticing that I was holding my breath and praying that this child would be alive and not terribly harmed. And then, like a bolt of lightning, a thought came to me; I believe that it was from the Lord.

There are likenesses to this buried child all around us, and even closer to home than we think. God see's us, every one of us, buried neck deep and even totally smothered beneath the rubble of this life. We find ourselves under a weight of pain, sadness and generational garbage which has been inflicted at the behest of an angry ex-angel, who didn't get what he wanted in heaven. His exile from his exalted home sent him here, and in his murderous rage he has caused such bitterness, anger and hatred, that it might have been better if he had just bombed the whole place. As we get nearer to the time when Christ will return to gather His children to himself, to finally save us from this enemy, he roams about like a roaring lion seeking who he can devour. He dumps torpedoes of devastating physical illnesses, especially on those who battle against him to help save the lives of others. He causes wars and rumors of war globally, plotting nation against nation and sets up entire cultures to hate those who follow the true God. He causes parents and grandparents to inflict abuse and pain upon their children, often

unknowingly, leaving the offspring to suffer consequences that cause more of the same to their own children. Society as a whole suffers his plan to separate us from God – to make us blame God for this whole mess. We end up pursuing some bit of happiness from all the wrong places – alcohol, drugs, possessions, putting others down so that we feel better about our hopeless selves, and even strict religious performance with multitudinous exactions designed to make people miserable under the weight of them.

All along, God designed that through RELATIONSHIP, He will Himself orchestrate the process of digging us out from the rubble. And then there is much cause for joy and personal happiness. Just like the little baby boy pulled out from under the life-threatening rocks and cement around him, we can be freed from the choking debris around and over us; we can finally rub our eyes as shards of light appear, God's light and hope-filled future before us.

Think about it for a few minutes. Look back to when you were in the darkness of fear, anxiety, loneliness, and confusion. What was that first glimmer of light, and who was it that brought it to you? Amazing how when you look back, you can see, if you look diligently enough, the ways that the Lord has led you in the past. We can discern who it is that has led us out of darkness into this marvelous light. Perhaps it was a team or a string of people who with unwavering effort labored at digging you out from the rubble that Satan, the enemy, dumped on your head. Maybe it was a drive within you that caused you to begin clawing at the garbage from inside, and then an unknown hand reached down to give you courage and hope and way out.

When was the last time that you recognized who God had sent to you? I look back on my years of life, and can see not only my parents and grandparents, who did their best to teach me right from wrong, but also: Auntie Helen, Frannie, Joseph and Hazel Damazo, Leah Shattuck, Dr. LaVeta Payne, Charlotte Greiner, and many friends who encouraged and applauded along my life's path. And for nearly fifty years, Ron, my life's partner, has done the same and supported me with love and tenderness. As I write this, I thank God for each of these who have in some way helped to dig me out of my rubble. I have told most of these people, many of whom are deceased, what part they have played in helping me along the way.

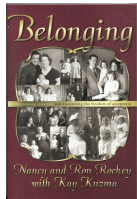
The biggest thing I learned from the *Facebook* video, however, was that God sends us whomever and whatever we need so that we can see and feel the light of His love. He is the one greatly to be praised, as He is the one who loves with such intensity and knows how to match up perfectly to us, those who teach us lessons that add more and more light.

So here's a bit of homework for you. As you think about those who have influenced you greatly in the past, make a list of their names. Thank God for sending them to you, and then, if they are still living, send a note of thanks and love to them. Then you are the workers God sends to them to add some light to their life. Everyone can benefit from words of love and encouragement.

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 - Leaders: Wanda J Johnson
 - Class: The Journey
 - Contact: Wanda
 - Phone: 403-392-7093
- **Canada - Nanaimo, Vancouver**
 - Where: Prison
- **Colorado - Canyon City**
 - Where: Canyon City SDA Church
 - When: Tuesdays, 4 pm
 - Leader: Fonda Harris
 - Contact: email
- **Colorado - Denver**
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